Enrollment of Orphaned and handicapped children in school

†608. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of efforts being made by Government for enrollment of orphaned and handicapped children in various schools;

(b) whether Government are aware that children with influence and access secured enrollment in Central Schools under privilege quota in place of the above children; and

(c) if so, the steps Government are going to take against injustice with orphaned and handicapped children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Under Sarva Shikshs Abhiyan (SSA), emphasis has been given on providing integrated and inclusive education to all children with special needs (CWSN) in the 6—14 age group, in general schools. The provisions available under SSA for this purpose include identification of such children functional and formal assessment, provision of aids and appliances, teacher training in inclusive education, resource support through resources teachers, community awareness and parental counselling, removal of architectural barriers and monitoring and evaluation. Under SSA, 4.13 lakh schools have been made barrier free, 4.89 lakh CWSNs have been provided with the required assistive devices and 5325 resource teachers have been appointed in 21 States to provide classroom support so far. In the year 2006-07, an amount of Rs. 281.59 crores has been sanctioned to promote inclusive education of the disabled children.

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Education for the Disabled Children (IEDC) endeavours to achieve the integration of children with disabilities of mild to moderate nature in normal schools. Implementation of the scheme is primarily through State Governments, UT Administrations and Non-Governmental Organisations and is based on viable proposals received. During 2005-06, over 2.00 lakh disabled children were covered in over 90,000 schools.

(b) and (c) Kendriya Vidyalayas are primarily meant for the wards of transferable Central Government employees including defence and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

paramilitary forces. Three per cent seats in all fresh admissions are reserved for the physically handicapped children. In case of discretionary quota for admissions to Kendriya Vidyalayas in 2006, the disabled children were given representation.

USER at Trivandrum

609. SHRITHENNALAG. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal to start Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (USER) at Trivandrum;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) On the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (SAC-PM), the Ministry has decided to set up an Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (USER) at Trivandrum.

Free education to girls

610. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to provide free education to girls upto senior secondary level;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Constitution (86th Amendment) Act, 2002 provides for free and compulsory education of all children in the age group of 6 to 14 years as a Fundamental Right under Article 21A of the Constitution in such manner as the State may, by law, determine.